



STUDY CIRCLE

BAHAMAS ONE SHILLING GREEN, 1863—1898.



Pane 1



Pane 2



Pane 3



Pane 4

SEE SIMON KELLY'S ARTICLE.



BULLETIN No. 248 March 2016



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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTIVES

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features of BWI interest. The BWISC BULLETIN was presented with the ABPS Specialist Society journal Award in 2004.
- 3 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aims of the Circle. The BWISC has published over 20 books or Study Papers over the last 12 years, some of which have received prestigious awards.
- 4 TO hold an annual auction for the sale of members' material. Normally, prior to the auction, the BWISC holds its Annual General Meeting.
- 5 TO organise occasional display meetings including a biennial weekend Convention and bourse. This offers further opportunities for members to buy and sell material.
- 6 TO maintain an internet website where information about Circle activities is publicised and where much other relevant information is posted.
- 7 TO maintain a specialised library from which home members can borrow books.

**Opinions expressed in articles in this Bulletin are those of the authors
and not necessarily those of the BWISC, its Editor or its Officers.**

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday 23 Apr 2016 – AGM and Auction at Spink, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 4ET. Auction viewing from 12 noon, AGM at 1:15pm, followed by auction at 2:15pm.

Thursday 28 April 2016 David Pitts will be displaying Bermuda at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY

Saturday 14 May 2016 Circle table and meeting to be held in Worcester at WORPEX 2016, venue – Tudor Grange Academy, Bilford Road, Worcester, WR3 8HN.

Thursday 26 May 2016 19.15 – 21.30 BWISC members Peter Fernbank, Ian Jakes and George Dunbar, will be giving a display at the Loughborough & District Philatelic Society, Roseberry Medical Centre, Roseberry Street, Loughborough LE11 5DX

Saturday 28 May to Saturday 4 June 2016 – FIP: World Stamp Show – NY 2016, Javits Centre, New York City 2016. Entrance Free. BCPSG events planned for 1 and 3 June.
Further details can be found at www.ny2016.org and in Charles Freeland's article on Page 4.
The Study Circle will be sharing booth 1378 with the BCPSG and the Bermuda Collectors Society.

Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 September 2016 – Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington, London, N10 0QH
Saturday 17 September, Informal Study Circle meeting & displays at 1pm.

Thursday 13 October 2016 The President of the Royal Philatelic Society has asked Michael Medlicott to mount a solo display to the Society. He has chosen 'Classic Revenues of the British West Indies' as his subject and would greatly appreciate the support of Circle members able to attend.

Subject to any last minute changes Michael intends to show, Antigua, British Guiana, British Honduras, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago and Trinidad. Two other members are scheduled to show Jamaica jointly in 2017, so Michael will try to avoid overlap with their chosen material.

FIP EXHIBITION, JAVITS CENTRE, NEW YORK, 28 MAY TO 4 JUNE 2016**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

The time is approaching quickly for members intending to attend this show to book their flights and hotels. The BWISC is paying to share a table with the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG) and the Bermuda Collectors Society at which we will be promoting our society and hoping to sell some of our recent books. Those who attended the Washington exhibition in 2006 or the earlier Pacific 97 will be making every attempt to visit New York as the scale and ambition of these shows dwarfs the modest exhibitions that London was able to mount in 2010 and 2015. In particular, as the list below demonstrates, there will be a number of BWI exhibits to admire plus a massive range of dealer and auctioneer booths to visit.

The programme is as usual enormous, with numerous seminars, society meetings and auctions (see <http://www.ny2016.org/EventCalendar.aspx> for details). Well over 100 separate societies have already enrolled and these include the following events at the Javits Centre of direct interest to our members:

Wednesday 1 June All day seminar (10.00 to 16.45) on BWI topics. The seminar will contain about ten presentations, including Barbados postal history (Stefan Heijtz), (Bermuda (David Cordon), early Br. Guiana (Simon Greenwood), surface-printed Br. Guiana (Peter Ford), Dominica (Simon Richards), blockade runners (Steve Walske), postal stationery (Wayne Menuz), 1935 Silver Jubilees (Gary Loew), mystery presentation (Richard Maisel) and War Tax issues (Peter Elias). In the evening the BCPSG is arranging a dinner at the Peking Duck House at 236 East 53rd Street, New York.

Thursday 2 June BCPSG board meeting (11–12am) and AGM (1–2 pm).

Friday 3 June Bermuda Collectors Society 11–12am (AGM) and 2–3 pm (presentation on Bermuda early postal history by David Pitts and Art Groten), plus a BCS members' dinner at a nearby Italian restaurant.

The confirmed BWI exhibits in the main show of almost 700 exhibits comprise:

Bahamas postal stationery (Keith Hanman)

Bermuda Postal history to UPU (David Pitts)

Bermuda King George V (David Cordon)

Bermuda Docks (David Cordon) single frame

Br. Guiana early sailing ship issues (Richard Maisel)

Cayman Is. postal history to 1945 (Graham Booth)

Leeward Is. Postal Stationery (Darryl Fuller)

St. Vincent De La Rue period stamps and proofs (Russell Boylan) Championship class

Plus Puerto Rico postal history (Stefan Heijtz)

New York is of course a massive city with a huge range of hotels to stay in, but for those members who want to use the same hotel, the BCPSG has chosen the Fairfield Inn in East Rutherford at a room rate of \$139 per night. This will include a hospitality suite where members can gather outside the show. Although across the Hudson in New Jersey, the hotel is a fairly short (\$40) cab ride from the Javits Centre and about 12 miles from Newark International airport (EWR). It has all mod cons and a buffet breakfast is included in the group price.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Simon Richards, who has been elected a Trustee of the Stuart Rossiter Trust. Simon's philatelic interest is in British West Indies classic issues and postal history and he has competed at the NPS and at Stampex. The Stuart Rossiter Trust is named after Stuart Rossiter (1923–82) FRPSL, an editor of the London Philatelist, and its work involves funding philatelic research and publications.

IN MEMORIAM**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Good things come in threes, but so do bad things. Over the past few months we have lost three distinguished collectors who will have been known to many of us although none were current BWISC members. Two of them were sadly only 73.

First of all, Michel Forand, a Canadian died of leukaemia last September. Michel collected Bermuda Postal History until he sold his collection through the Victoria Stamp Company in 1998. Nonetheless he continued to use his professional expertise in several areas of interest to Bermuda collectors. Initially, he was my co-author and editor in 'Bermuda Mails to 1865', published by the BCPSPG in 1995. Second, he had distinguished periods editing a number of journals. From June 1991 to December 1997 he acted as a proactive editor of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal (BCPJ), during which time he persuaded such luminaries as Morris Ludington to write substantive articles. In 1997 his second BWI publication appeared when he master-minded 'Leeward Islands – a Postal History Anthology' issued by the BCPSPG to coincide with the Pacific 97 International. Third, he was a keen and expert indexer who compiled and kept up to date the index for the BCPJ and Bermuda Post (the journal of the Bermuda Collectors Society). Perhaps most significantly, in addition to having been the original author or co-author of six sections of the Bermuda Specialized Catalogue, Michel stepped up to become co-editor with David Cordon when the project seemed to have run into the sand. It should also be mentioned that many of the most important books on Bermuda philately published over the past 20 years benefitted from Michel's editorial skills, including Peter Flynn's 'Intercepted in Bermuda' and Myles Glazer's 'King George V High-Value Stamps 1917-1938'.

Then we heard that Graham Cooper had died on 4 October at the age of 83. Graham was a true Geosix collector; he collected all areas of the Empire and turned up his nose at anything that had nothing to do with the reign. My knowledge of non-BWI is meagre, but my impression is that he possessed an example of virtually every GVI rarity with the exception of the Indian States and Japanese Occupation issues. He did not appear to collect in depth but rather to cherry pick the best. His Bahamas, where he lived, was not surprisingly outstanding containing all the rarities such as value tablets printed double and I still recall goggling at the four sheets he owned of the Bahamas Columbus 8d with one stamp in each sheet showing the 'I' for 'L' flaw. He was known to be an aggressive buyer and had the means to pay for whatever took his fancy, such as the mint St. Vincent 10s inverted watermark, still one of two mint examples known. His holding of double prints, imperf between and frames printed double with one albino was almost certainly unrivalled. We will find out when his collection comes up at Spink on 27 January. Although to my knowledge he never displayed competitively, Graham presented a 52 frame display at the RPS in October 1991, which he humorously titled 'King George VI – modern classics or wallpaper?'.

The third loss, and a very shocking one as it was so sudden, was Francis Kiddle RDP. Francis was the first 'ordinary bloke' to become President of the RPS and in my view was responsible for bringing the RPS into the 20th century if not the 21st. His collections were eclectic, with obscure revenues and labels to the fore, plus some exotic countries such as Kuwait. I did not know him intimately but he was always very approachable even though our collecting interests hardly crossed. He was a huge contributor to organised philately, as Huggins wrote in his obituary in the LP and had held dozens of important posts in the RPS, the FIP and the many philatelic societies of which he was a member, notably the Cinderella Stamp Club. He was also a prolific writer of articles in the philatelic magazines including a regular article in Gibbons Stamp Monthly on Cinderella topics.

BWI**REQUEST FOR HELP REGARDING SHIPPING LINES AND ROUTES****BY MICHAEL OLIVER**

I have in my possession the four covers illustrated with the name of the ship that carried them. Can any member provide me with any information about them, particularly their shipping lines and routes?

Please respond to the Bulletin editor or me at 7, Ancliffe Lane, Bolton-le-Sands, Lancs. LA5 8DS or moliver7@btinternet.com.

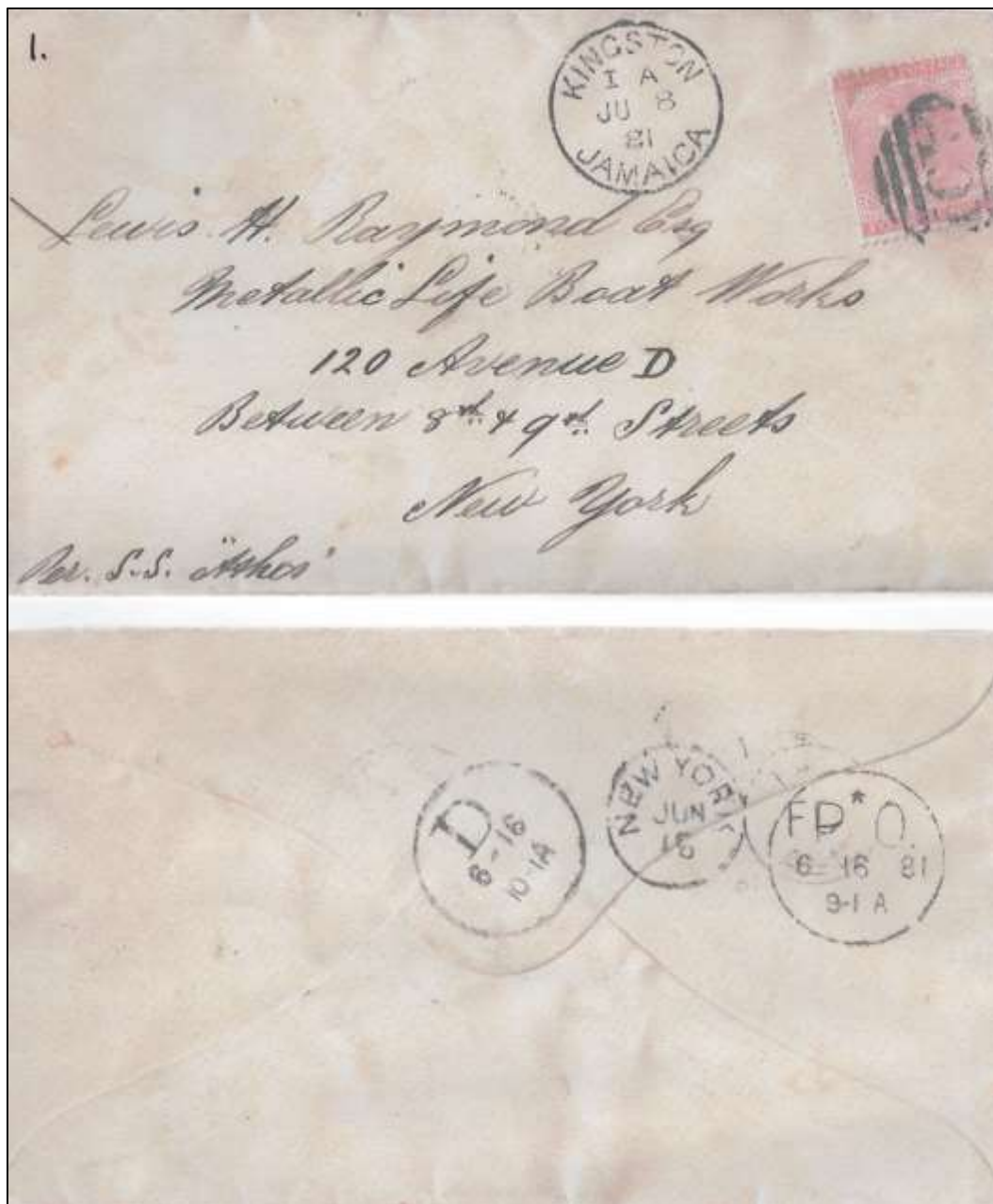


Fig. 1. June 1881, Kingston Jamaica to New York, backstamped by SS Athos or Ashos.



Fig. 2. June 1882, Barbados to Halifax, Nova Scotia by SS *Viola*.



Fig. 3. April 1894, Belize to New York via New Orleans by SS *Gambetta*.



Fig. 4. November 1909, Grenada to New York by SS *Maracas*.

ANTIGUA

EARLIEST USE OF KGV SMALL SEAL?

BY JOHN JORDAN



N. 307.

The POSTMASTER of Antigua has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of *Mr. A. Taggett* of the *9/4/1921* forwarding a remittance of _____ Pounds _____ Shillings and _____ Pence, and to transmit herewith the following:—

ANTIGUA STAMPS &c.			LEEWARD ISLANDS STAMPS &c.		
	£	s d		£	s d
1 Stamp @ 1d			2 Stamp @ 1d		
2 " 1d			2 " 1d		
1 " 2d			2 " 1d		
1 " 2d			2 " 2d		
1 " 3d			2 " 2d		
1 " 6d			2 " 3d		
1 " 1s			2 " 6d		
1 " 2s			2 " 1s		
1 " 2s6d			2 " 2s		
20 2s			2 " 2s6d		
Total	7	3	Total		

Post Office,
Antigua, Leeward Islands, B.W.I.
9/7/1921

M. Pitts
Postmaster

A Leeward Islands Order-in-Council dated 29 June 1921 authorised the use of Antigua's initial nine KGV Small Seal definitives on and after 1 July 1921. For some reason, Gibbons provides nothing more specific than the year of issue. However, the stamps (1/2d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 6d, 1s, 2s and 2s6d) had been dispatched to Antigua in April so they would undoubtedly have been available for issue on 1 July.

Here is even more evidence that comes tantalisingly close to that date. It is a registered Post Office cover with a 1/2d pair (SG 71) clearly cancelled by a St. John's CDS on 9 July. What's more, the transmittal slip is still with the cover; it acknowledges the addressee's order of 3 April 1921 for one or two each of the same nine values, herewith transmitted. He is even charged for the two 2½d stamps used to pay the postage! Incidentally, that rate is 1/2d overpaid: empire letter 2d, registration 2d, war tax 1/2d (the tax would last until January 1922). The Post Office folded the long cover in half before posting - a Liverpool registration oval (2 August) straddles the join on the back. The 9 July date is the earliest I have seen for the issue, but there must have been others; St. John's should have been busy with orders at the time.

Has anyone seen values used in early July, or maybe even 1 July?

Articles wanted for future Bulletins
Anything West Indies related considered

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF JAMAICAN PHILATELY, VOLUME 9 MILITARY MAILS

by Paul Farrimond and Raymond Murphy

This book is based on the original written by the late Derek Sutcliffe; it has been thoroughly revised and largely re-written. It continues the aim of presenting the Jamaica Encyclopaedia in a new softbacked format with many illustrations now in full colour.



A4 sized, perfect bound, (viii) + 458 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-24-6

Price: £29.00 (\$45.00). BWISC Members' Discount: £3.00 (\$4.50).

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1949 6ct orange vertical lower left corner pair on local
FDC, cancelled at Soufriere, imperforate between
stamps and the left margin. Eight examples were found,
of which two were damaged

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Articles wanted for future Bulletins

Anything West Indies related considered

BAHAMAS

NOTES AND QUERIES ON THE BAHAMAS ONE SHILLING GREEN ISSUED 1863–1898

DR. SIMON R. A. KELLY

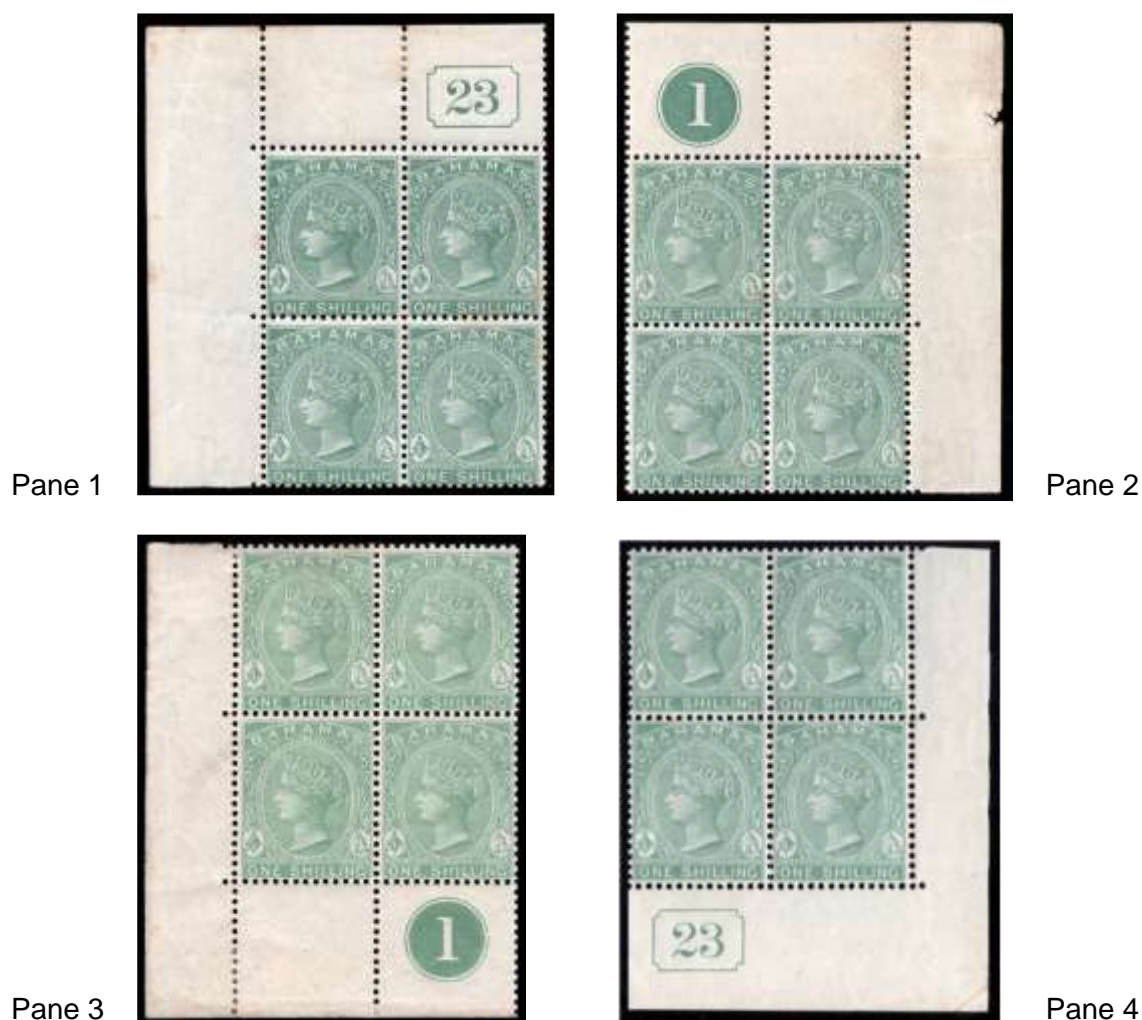


Fig. 1. Corner blocks of four from Panes 1–4 showing position of current number and plate number.

Note the different perforation styles and hole sizes in the two lower blocks.

Panes 1, 2 and 4 show normal perforation; Pane 3 shows reverse perforation.

In connection with preparing a new book on the stamps of the Bahamas, Peter Fernbank invited me to contribute a section on the Victorian one shilling green. To this end I have re-examined my collection in detail to demonstrate the history of the stamp. This collection was recently on view at Honiley (and will have been seen also at the Royal Philatelic Society on 28 January 2016). At Honiley some items were offered to the specialist panel for opinions. Several individuals have contributed material which adds much new information. We are now in a position to revise considerably Gisburn's (1950) classic original account of Bahamian stamps. The publication of the De La Rue Collection of which Peter Fernbank (2014) described the Bahamas section, has been a major step forward in understanding the history of the stamp, especially in the use of the one shilling green during the preparation of the high value Bahamas stamps issued in 1884. The aim of this article is not to give a full description of these stamps here, but to bring up certain interesting points which lead up to a list of questions which if answered will improve the final text in the book.



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ESSAYS AND DIE PROOFS

The original essays of the design for the one shilling green are based on the two line drawings with Chinese white touching up that reside in the Royal Philatelic Collection. They were described and illustrated by Wilson (1952). There is a stamp sized essay and an enlargement (x2) dated 1863. Presumably these were prepared by a De La Rue staff artist and were based on Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté's diadem type VI (Easton, 1943, plate VIII). Easton stated that this diadem was used in issues from 1865, but he appears to have overlooked the Bahamas one shilling which appeared in 1863. Recently I was able to acquire from the Vestey sale (Dec. 2014) a set of ten die proofs which were originally described by Robson Lowe (1957). These proofs were originally in philatelic hands quite early and in the footnote, Lowe described them and stated they had come from the collection of the Italian King Victor Emanuel II who died in 1878. Morris Ludington (1999) redescribed them in very great detail. They show development of the preparation of the head, background and final inclusion of the value tablet. Less than a handful of other proofs related to this set have come to light. The first issue dates from 1863 on Crown CC watermarked paper. There are mid-green examples shown by imperforate sheet proofs, including manuscript and handstamped 'SPECIMEN' overprints.

MARGINAL PRINTING MARKS ON ALL WATERMARKS

In contrast with the later circular framed Victorian issues these oval framed surface-printed stamps were not produced from a key-plate. They were generated from a single plate of 240 stamp impressions in 4 panes of 60 stamps (6x10) incorporating the head, background and duty all in one. I have never seen a gutter marginal pair of stamps, either in vertical or horizontal format, and suspect that all sheets issued were guillotined, scissored or broken into their respective panes before use, probably done in the Bahamas. Marginal markings include circular intaglio plate '1' imprints on panes 2 and 3, and chamfered corner framed '23' (the Current Number) on Panes 1 and 4 (Fig. 1).

Laterally on the outer margin of each pane is the inscription 'ONE QUARTO SHEET CONTAINING 60 STAMPS', reading upwards on the two left panes and downward on the two right panes (Fig. 2), opposite Rows 3 to 8.

The only other printed marginal marking is the inverted 'T' which appears at the lower left of Pane 4 (below stamp 55) and adjacent to the gutter margin (Fig. 3). It is probably concerned with the registration of the printing plate.



Fig. 2. Marginal block of six in blue-green (1898) with inscription on Crown CA watermark paper.



Fig. 3. Inverted 'T' from foot of Pane 4, adjacent to vertical central gutter which has been scissored, and perforated lower margin. The perforated bottom margin indicates the unusual top-feed perforation.

WATERMARKS

The standard catalogues indicate the two watermarks which can be found on the One Shilling Green issues. From 1863 the Crown CC (Crown Colony) watermark can be seen on individual stamps. From 1882 this was replaced by Crown CA (Crown Agents) watermark. However little has been said hitherto about the watermark in the margins. The horizontal gutter between Panes 1 and 3 is watermarked 'CROWN' (Fig. 4) and between 2 and 4 'AGENTS'. On the left margin reading up and across both panes is watermarked 'CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES' and the same reading downwards on the right hand side. So far it has only been possible to demonstrate fairly accurately what is known about the Crown CA watermark and a reconstruction is shown in Fig. 7.



Fig. 4. Block of eight showing the lower and right margins of Pane 1 on watermark crown CA paper, printed in blue-green ink of the 1898 issue. Note the watermark in the horizontal gutter showing the upper parts of the letters [C]ROWN.

PERFORATION

Early examples of the One Shilling Green appear to be line perforated. This can usually be spotted in the different corner perforations of individual stamps. We are lacking information on these line-perforated examples and would appreciate learning of any blocks and marginal examples which people have. Of the mid-green, line-perforated 14 examples, some used postmarked examples imperforate and partly perforated. This suggests that at least one sheet which was incompletely perforated was issued to the public. Unfortunately the cancellations are the undated A05 which cannot be closely dated.

The generally ragged De La Rue line-perforation 12.5, in a distinctly deep shade of blue-green, is given in the catalogues as issued in 1864 or 1865 (Gisburn), or 1865 (Gibbons). However dated copies do not appear until significantly later, 1871 and 1872. It was demonstrated at Honiley by mint and used examples including one on cover to Lloyds at the Royal Exchange, sent on 27 May 1872, well after its supposed issue. It would be interesting to document further examples dated on cover.



Fig. 5. Central marginal block of six in deep blue-green showing wing-margin with two clear horizontal perforation holes and vertical perforation down centre of gutter, used 16 October 1880 on Crown CC watermark paper.

Wing marginal, comb-perforated 14 stamps were produced by Somerset House. These are characterised by two clear perforations separating the stamp from the mid-sheet vertical perforation. They are normally encountered in examples of a deepish blue-green and dated on loose stamps from the 1880s (Fig. 5). Some examples may be on mid-green printings, but are not dated by postmark.



Fig. 6 – showing the vertical gutter margin with 5 horizontal perforation holes (courtesy Peter Fernbank).

The normal comb-perforation 14 used later by De La Rue shows all stamps perforated closely with no wing margin. There is no central vertical perforation and a perforated blank margin with five clear horizontal perforations separates the left from the right hand panes (Fig. 6).

CROWN CC 1863

In addition to the marked shades of a mid-green to a deep green, there is variation in the thickness of paper used and thicker paper appeared in 1880. Earlier stamps appear line-perforated, while most are comb-perforated 14. A dark green shade of 1863 (Gisburn) is shown by a used block of six with imperforate wing-margin but used in 1880 (Fig. 5). A spectacular used block of a complete pane in the mid-green shade, unfortunately less its margins, was displayed. It is clearly dated 2 October 1881 from its postmark, but the purpose to which this sheet of £3-0-0 value was put is not known.

CROWN CA 1882

The Crown CA watermark shilling appeared in 1882, again printed in shades of mid-green. The marginal markings are the same as previously and there appears to be no modifications to the printing plate. Used stamps shown included a vertical block of six with the Out Islands horizontal oval '27' applied individually to each stamp and a block of twelve each with a crisp upright oval 'B'. Colour trials including die proofs in brown and blue, include one dated in September 1883. Watermarked stamps perforated 12 were produced in connection with the production of high value stamps which were eventually printed from new key-plate dies in 1884 (Fernbank 2014).

CROWN CA 1898

The final shilling printing in 1898 on CA paper was in a distinct strong blue-green shade. A vertical strip of 6 stamps from one of the right-hand panes shows the complete marginal inscription 'ONE QUARTO..... 60 STAMPS' (Fig. 2). This stamp was in use until the issue of King Edward VII one shilling stamps in 1902. However, there is a later use of this stamp when a small number were handstamped 'SPECIMEN' in about 1906 or 1907 in locally produced presentation sets including the Victorian key-plate issues.

FISCAL USE

In addition to postal use, the one shilling green was shown in fiscal use, using substantial strips on a Bahamas Registrar's Office document of 1889 and a property conveyance of 1901. These had manuscript signature cancellations.

'FORGERIES'

Finally reproductions of the stamp, they can hardly be described as forgeries, were prepared in sheets by the Spiro Brothers of Hamburg (Branston, 1972). There were two plates of 25 stamps (5x5). An example of a complete Plate II with rouletted perforation was shown with characteristic barred oval obliterations. This stamp features in Earée's 1876, *Spud Papers* which was shown in a complete printed article having an actual attached stamp with round hole line-perforation 12.5.

Stanley Gibbons Auctions

Next sale is March 22nd 2016 featuring Bermuda



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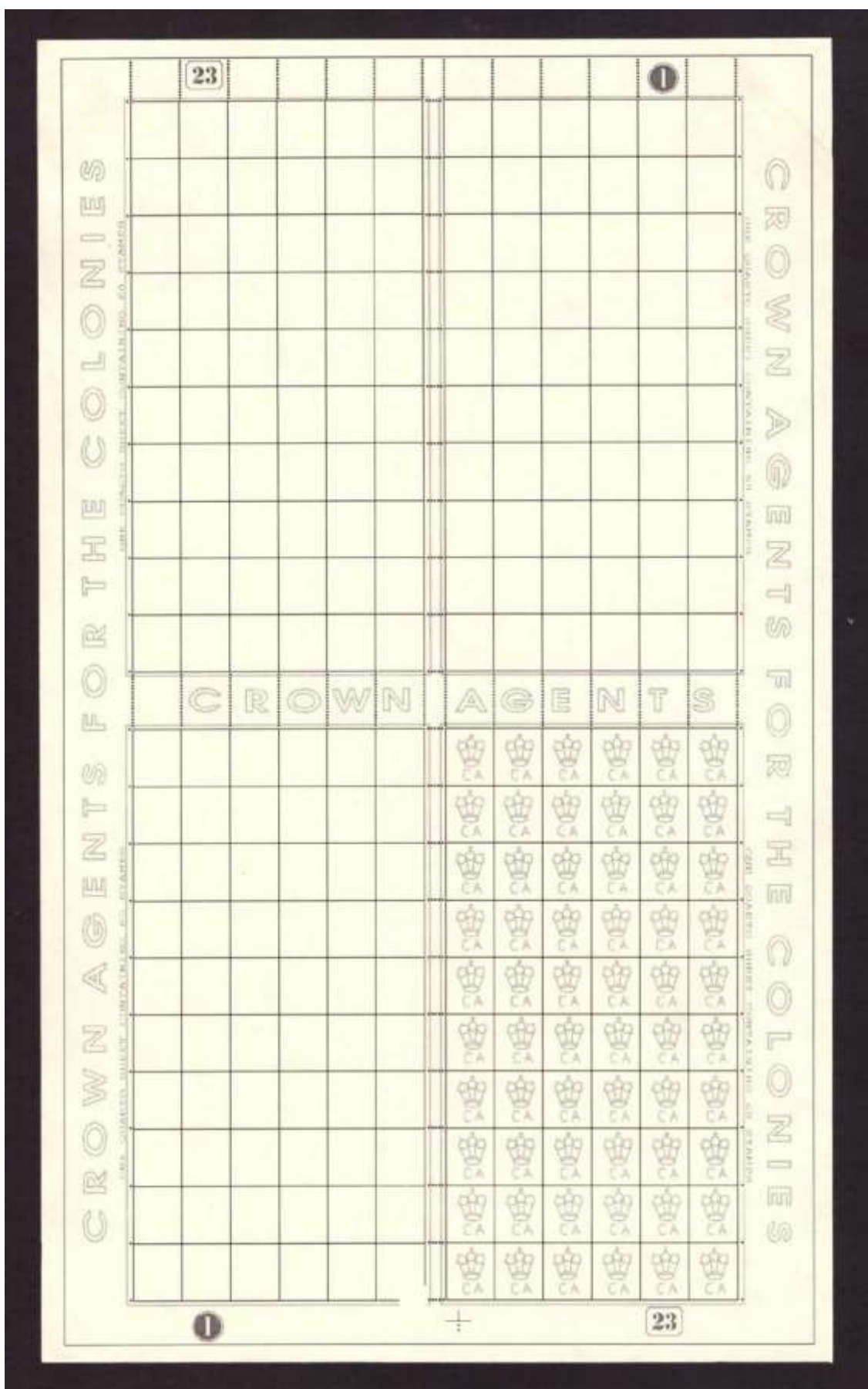


Fig. 7. Reconstruction of full mill sheet of the One Shilling Green with Crown CA watermark, showing marginal printed markings, elements of the perforation (a normal bottom feed example) and the watermark on the stamps and marginal areas.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author thanks Charles Freeland, Simon Goldblatt, Michael Hamilton and Phil McMurdie for valuable comments and information on stamps of the one shilling green. Peter Fernbank kindly reviewed the text and gave suggestions for improvements.

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QUESTIONS



Fig. 8. Dated examples of watermark Crown CC on (A) one shilling and (B) strip of 4 4d showing identical BAHAMAS datestamp for 'MR 14/1864 / A'; enlarged x 1.5. (4d, courtesy Michael Hamilton)



Fig. 9. Earliest dated copy of One Shilling Green on Crown CA watermark paper.

There remain some intriguing questions relating to the stamp issues of the One Shilling Green and the following are asked of the readership:

1. Has anyone ever seen a gutter pair of One Shilling Greens of any issue? I suspect that all printed sheets of four panes were guillotined or broken into their respective panes for issue. This would certainly make handling the unused stamps much easier and they would in the earlier stages at least have been much more comparable in size to the line-engraved

2. What is the earliest dated use on Crown CC paper? This was debated at the Honiley meeting based on the example below. Subsequently another example of this datestamp has emerged from the stock of Michael Hamilton, struck on a strip of three four pence values on the same day. The clarity and evenness of the strikes are reminiscent of Madame Joseph (Fig. 8). Can anyone produce an early dated cover?
3. The few examples of marginal copies showing the Crown CC watermark show some variation in the layout and the author would appreciate photocopies of positional examples with the watermark inked in, not so much the Crown CC part, but the marginal lines etc.
4. Does anyone have any watermark inverted or reversed examples, CC or CA?
5. Does anyone have convincing blocks with line-perforation 14, and especially showing marginal examples?
6. Gisburn gave 1864 or 1865 as the date of issue of the line-perforation 12.5. What is the earliest date on cover – mine is 27 May 1872 a much later date.
7. What is the earliest use on CA paper? Again a cover would be useful. The following (Fig. 9) indicates use before the March 1882 date suggested by Gisburn, but is only on an isolated stamp.
8. What is the reason for the abundance of large blocks of the one shilling green, typically from the early 1880s on both CC and CA paper? Had they been used for accounting purposes? The fact that they have Post Office datestamps suggest that they are not fiscal use, as such stamps usually have pen and ink signatures or initials. All examples seen have been 'off paper' with no examples 'on piece'. Were they cancelled to order and produced for philatelic purposes? Or did the original material pass through philatelic hands and was all carefully washed off original document paper for the 'benefit' of stamp collectors?
9. Are there guide lines in the top margin (probably just to the left of the vertical gutter margin and similar but inverted to those shown in Fig.3)?

Finally if you have anything unusual on the One Shilling Green, I would like to hear from you on simon.kelly@casp.cam.ac.uk, or via the editor.

BAHAMAS HANDBOOK

BY PETER FERNBANK

Work is currently underway on a new handbook dealing with the stamps and postal stationery of Bahamas to 1970. Since Gisburn's handbook of 1950 the fields of postal history, postal rates and cancellations have benefitted from erudite works from Ludington, Raymond, Proud, etc. However, there remains much scope to add to existing published information on the basic stamps and to consolidate and build on Graham Hoey's articles in the BCPSPG journal on postal stationery.

Although I will be contributing a major part of the work there are areas where I have called on other members to contribute chapters relevant to their areas of expertise. Others have been searching their collections for relevant material. It is anticipated that the project will be completed within the coming year.

I therefore wish to appeal to fellow Bahamas collectors for information on any unusual material they may possess within this period. These needn't be howling rarities but 'exceptions to the normal'. Anything in the Stamps and Postal Stationery categories will be considered, but not postal history or cancellations please (unless they contain earliest proving dates of a particular value).

Scans of the following items would also be appreciated:-

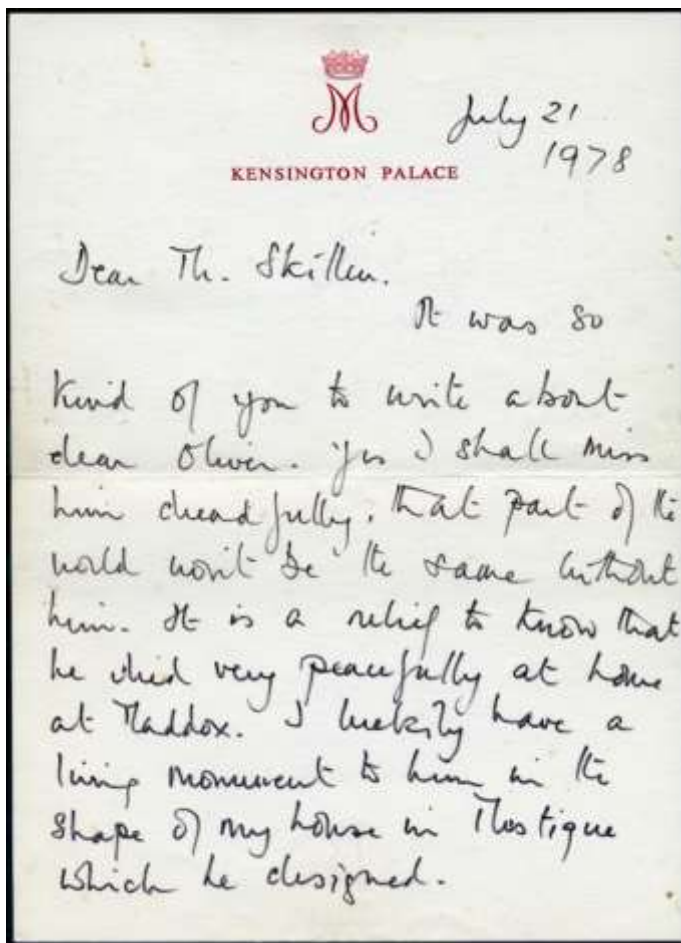
1½d 1946 Victory – a lower left corner piece containing the inverted 'B55' current number.

KGV 5/- SG88 – a top right corner piece with a three digit sheet number.

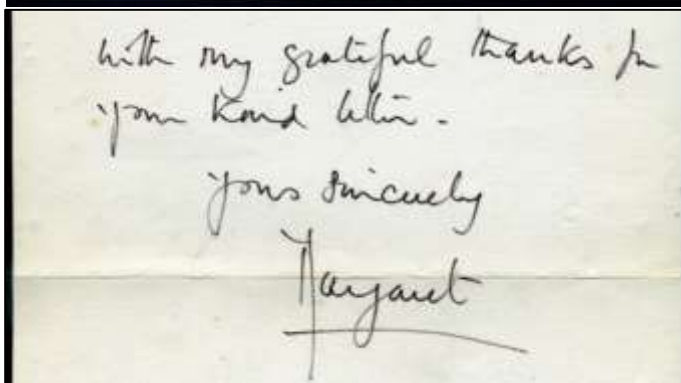
6d KGV Silver Jubilee, plate number example from Plate 2A. Also 6d from Plate 4 (if this plate was used).

Please send anything you may have to pfernbank@tiscali.co.uk or via the editor.

LES JOLIES EAUX, MUSTIQUE



A rare letter hand-written by HRH Princess Margaret expressing sadness on hearing of the death of Oliver Messel who was commissioned by the Hon. Colin Tennant to design her house, as above, on Mustique.



Oliver Messel dazzled British theatre goers for three decades with his set and costume designs which included Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Sleeping Beauty* which famously starred Margot Fonteyn. He was commissioned to design the décor for a suite at London's Dorchester hotel which became Elizabeth Taylor's favourite place to stay whilst in London. Messel retired to Barbados where he bought Maddox, a small bay house, which he elegantly transformed. The Hon. Colin Tennant commissioned him to design some 30 house plans on Mustique which included *Les Jolies Eaux* (Beautiful Waters). Costumier Hugh Skillen is well known for his theatre headaddresses and masks.

Visit my on-line shop at: www.michael-hamilton.com

Michael Hamilton, 9 Ernwell Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5NT

BARBADOS

BOOTHEELS AND SO ON.

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

I don't want to write about the barred oval numerals, except to confess that I still have enormous difficulty in distinguishing a 6 from a 9. I remember one of the experts of bygone days telling me once, 'It's simple really: the 9 has 4 bars on top, and the 6 has only three.' With profuse thanks I hurried home to turn two numerals of slightly different shape to give the same orientation and it worked! Yet believe it or not I still get confused (anno domini!). (see Fig. 1).



Fig. 1.

So I turn to bootheels, with distant recall of an admirable article by Fitz Roett which, alas, I don't have in front of me as I write, as recent relocation of our entire professional chambers has left my papers in the same sort of chaos as I enjoy at my home.



Fig. 2.

Never mind. I do seem to recall that Fitz stopped his analysis short of the 1882–6 issues of Barbados, so that he did not reveal that it is possible to collect the full set of 11 parishes on this issue. Obviously one has to concentrate on the 1d value (see Fig. 2) and predictably the head office numeral should prove the most difficult of all to find, because its heavily worn bootheel numerals were being phased out of use many years before, and if I find one on a DLR 1882 issue, it is likely to stick to my fingers.



Fig. 3.

Yes, you concentrate on the 1882 1d, but keep your eyes skinned for the 4d grey also. I don't suggest you could acquire a full set, but see Fig. 3 for the busy St. Joseph, the slow-to-change St. Thomas, ubiquitous St. Peter and St. Lucy. You might, I reckon, one day stumble across St. Philip or St. James; I'd hold out no hope for any of the other five, and also do not personally expect to add to my four. As for the stamps on which you might find bootheel numbers, I'd regard the ½d as a possible contender, and believe that you can forget about the 2½d, 3d, 4d brown or any higher value.

What then of the earlier issues? I recollect Fitz telling us that even in the Perkins Bacon era, one or two parish numerals were either extremely difficult, or even unrecorded, on any but the (1d) blue values, never mind the DLR availability. I doubt whether I've tried very hard for any but the 1882 issues, but it may be worth mentioning how far I have got myself.



Fig. 4.

Fig. 4 shows the never-plentiful Christchurch 2, with a (4d) and a DLR 6d chrome-yellow.



Fig. 5.

In Fig. 5 we get a PB 6d and 1s, DLR 1d, 6d, and we are already seeing in these two numerals the sort of pattern liable to emerge.



Fig. 6.

St. George echoes this in Fig. 6, with a PB 6d, DLR 4d and 6d, all the DLR so far being perf 14. Will this continue? Mediocre strikes, these: 4 is the one bootheel that is seldom clearly struck.



Fig. 7.

St. John introduces a variant (Fig. 7) with a PB 1s, DLR ½d and what, surely, is going to be a rarity, irrespective of listing, in a 3d example.



Fig. 8.

St. Joseph (Fig. 8) is of interest, perhaps for the quality of its strikes, but primarily for the fact that one of its two 1s values is imperf. If you tend to view a bootheel on imperf with suspicion, bear in mind that the imperf 1s stayed in use longer than any of the lower values and should by no means be rejected merely because cancelled with an unnumbered bootheel, let alone one with parish numeral.



Fig. 9.

St. James in Fig. 9 fits the developing pattern, whilst adding a DLR aniline mauve. As one of the busy offices, it probably consistently held the principal values to 1s.



Fig. 10.

For St. Thomas and St. Andrew (Fig. 10) I am confined to a single pre-1882 example, a 6d and a 1d. These two parish offices were never, I think, at full stretch during the period over which I collect, and are never abundant.



Fig. 11.

St. Peter (Fig. 11) yields four values above (1d) and is one of several where I would not pause to separate out DLR 1d values, which are never hard to get. I don't believe that I ever considered numerals hard to find on the later 1d issues, until Fitz made the point in his article.



Fig. 12.

We arrive finally in St. Lucy with Fig. 12, where the 4d and two 6d values conform to pattern, and I have unashamedly reverted to the barred oval to make the point that it is possible to find this type of cancellation on a perforated stamp. The addendum is to remind ourselves that even a familiar type of obliteration can be a rarity, if found on an unfamiliar stamp.

The commentary in this article should not be treated as profound or comprehensive. It is neither, but lends itself to just a few supplementary thoughts. Where we have seen DLR Britannias, they have all been perf 14, and it may well be that the perf 12½ issues were not distributed outside the GPO. This would not mean that they cannot be found with parish numerals, letters would have been franked from time to time with stamps bought in GPO by a resident of a different parish. Indeed, I think this is a likely enough explanation of the single DLR 3d to which I have drawn attention.

The further conclusion may be drawn that parish numerals were all withdrawn from the parish offices before the end of 1883, possibly in 1882 before the 2½d, or even the ½d values, of the new DLR key type had been distributed around the island. I have not checked to see whether Bayley has had anything to say about this, and would unhesitatingly defer to him if he has. I have disciplined myself over the years to question whether village postmarks emanate from village stocks or from stamps imported to obtain the particular marks, and I find myself at this point in my reviews pretty confident that it did not happen with parish offices during the era under consideration. A statistician would comment that the numbers of stamps under review are not statistically significant. This is perfectly true of the numbers in themselves. The statistician, however, would have no knowledge of the quantities of pre-1885 issues that have passed under my gaze before yielding the rather flimsy total that I have illustrated.

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ANTIGUA. 1882 2½d large '2' in '2½' with slanted foot. Very fine used with 'A02' of St Johns. SG 22b.	£700	JAMAICA. 1873 1/- marginal inscription block of nine. Very fine mint. Lovely piece. SG 13.	£350
BAHAMAS (GBUA). 1858 2d blue pair (Plate 7) lightly cancelled 'A05' in black. Rare piece. Ex Glassco. SG Z2.	£650	JAMAICA. 1916 ½d Plate block of four with 'R' inserted. Unmounted mint. Wonderful positional piece. SG 70c.	£1500
BAHAMAS. 1942 5/- on thin striated paper. Very fine mint. Extremely rare. SG 156a.	£3000	LEEWARDIS. 1890 5/- very fine used on piece with MONTERRAT c.d.s. 'MR 24 1911'. SG 8.	£250
BARBADOS. 1852 (½d) deep green marginal block of six. Very fine mint. Ex Burrus. SG 2.	£700	NEVIS. 1876 1/- with crossed lines on hill (Pos# 9). Very fine mint. SG 14b.	£1500
CAYMAN ISLANDS. 1907 ½d on 5/- with 'slotted frame'. Very fine mint. Only 15 possible! SG 18var.	£2000	ST VINCENT. 1875 6d deep blue-green showing part 'ST' marginal watermark. Very fine unused. SG 19b.	£450
GRENADA. 1892 1d on 6d Due in strip of three. Unmounted mint. Rare multiple. SG D4.	£450	TURKS & CAICOS. 1917 1d 'WAR TAX' overprint omitted (in pair with normal). Unmounted mint. SG 143c.	£500
JAMAICA. 1863 3d green pair with large local 'SPECIMEN' handstamp in black (Samuel J1). Very fine mint. SG 3.	£700	VIRGIN ISLANDS. 1919 1d carmine-red in corner Plate '6' block of four. Unmounted mint. SG 70c.	£150

The above is a selection from my extensive British Commonwealth stock. All items available on approval (subject unsold). Major credit cards accepted. Illustrated lists on request (please advise collecting interests). Wants lists invited.

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BRITISH GUIANA

MAIL LOST IN 1884

BY STEVE JARVIS

A Jamaica Gazette announcement that may be of interest:



General Post Office, 6th February, 1884.
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE following Letter from the Postmaster-General of British Guiana, reporting the loss of a Mail Bag, in which were Letters received from Jamaica by Mail Steamer of the 8th January, is published for general information.

FRED. SULLIVAN,
Postmaster for Jamaica.

(Copy).
The Postmaster-General of British Guiana to the Postmaster for Jamaica.
General Post Office, Georgetown, British Guiana,
25th January, 1884.

SIR,—I regret to inform you that the letters addressed to persons in New Amsterdam and the Corentyne Coast, District of Berbice, which formed a portion of the Mails despatched by the Royal Mail Steamer which left Jamaica on the 8th instant have been lost in this Colony.

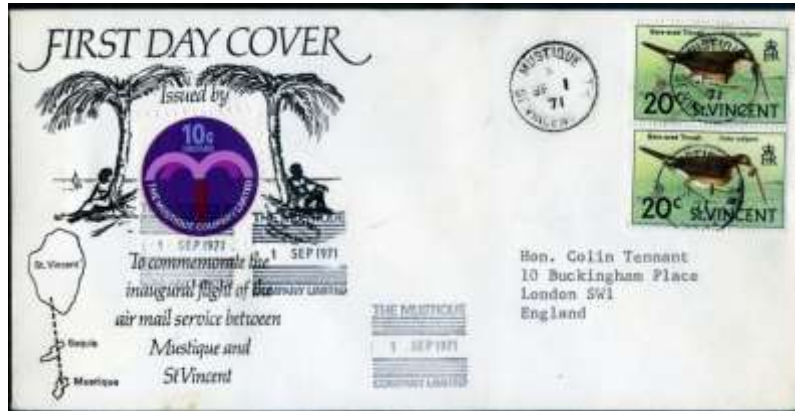
The mail bag in which the letters were enclosed was despatched by special mail coach to New Amsterdam on the night of the arrival of the Royal Mail Steamer, (21st January), and the driver of the coach accounts for the loss of the bag by its having been jolted out of the coach owing to the rough state of the roads.

The bag could not be found when search was made for it, and although the matter is in the hands of the Police, and a Reward for the mails has been offered, no trace of it has, up to the present time, been discovered. It is feared that some person found the bag on the road, cut it open, abstracted what there was of value (the bag contained \$28.80 in money) and destroyed all traces of the robbery.

I beg that you will make the loss of the Mails in question as public as possible.

I have, &c.,
(Sgd.) F. M. HODGSON.
Postmaster-General.

THE MUSTIQUE COMPANY LOCAL CARRIAGE SERVICE



It has taken nearly 45 years to discover that there was a short-lived local carriage service between Mustique Island and mainland St. Vincent which bi-passed the services of the Mustique post office. The idea was conceived by the Hon. Colin Tennant, and after Government approval, four labels were produced in yellow, orange, blue & mauve to defray costs by air transport. The 10c mauve label was for exclusive use by the Tennant family and of the 70 labels produced only one commercial cover is known to have survived. The service terminated September 1st 1971 when the GPO started an air service to and from Mustique and 64 mauve labels were used up on the inaugural first flight covers. This leaves just 5 mauve labels unaccounted for.

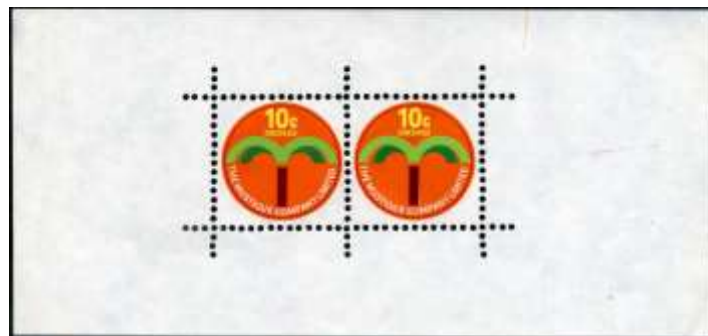
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ST. VINCENT

MUSTIQUE COMPANY LOCAL CARRIAGE SERVICE MINT SHEETLETS

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

This is probably the first time you have seen the format for the mint Mustique Company local carriage labels. I have a single sheet for the orange, yellow and blue labels but not the mauve label. Each show the same plate scratches in the wide selvage at 1 o'clock and 3 o'clock plus the slightly irregular perforations at lower right.



The printers are unknown and there is no information about the type of unusual printing process used.

The idea was conceived by Mustique owner the Hon. Colin Tennant. He had regularly watched Hon. Hugo Money-Coutts take the company mail by light aircraft to mainland St. Vincent and saw the possibilities of printing labels to offset the costs.

Only one cover dated 10 JUN 1971 at Mustique and */11 JU 71 at Kingstown has survived to show that a carriage service actually existed. It is in Colin Tennant's own hand addressed to his wife at their London home. Arrival is confirmed by luminescent machine sorting coding at lower right. Lady Anne Tennant, formerly Lady Anne Veronica Coke, is best known for her role as one of the Maids of Honour at the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and is easily recognised in the iconic images of her carrying the Queen's gown down the aisle at Westminster Abbey.



Lady Anne Coke is standing third from left.

Mustique had its own Post Office and datestamp since 1958 with mail being conveyed once or twice a week by sea to the mainland some 18 miles away. The well-documented 'SP 1 1971' first flight covers commemorate the inaugural flight of mail conveyed by GPO to the mainland and this event terminated private conveyance. All remaining labels were applied to the flight covers and the Urch Harris catalogue listed printing quantities as 10c orange (2000), 10c blue (550), 10c yellow (250), 10c mauve (70). I was told recently by Nicholas Courtney of the Mustique management team that he carried all these covers back to London in a suitcase on a cheap flight via Luxembourg. Princess Margaret was on board, but pleased to have the stop-over as she met up with friends!

Former BWISC member Mike Wilson, in Bulletin No. 72 of March 1972, supplies the best information as he gives the figures of labels applied to flight covers as orange (1931), blue (555), yellow (254), mauve (64). He also states that the orange labels were used by residents and tourists, the blue and yellow by various grades of employees, and the mauve labels by the owners.

Although Wilson's blue and yellow figures are inaccurate the actual, or estimated, labels currently unaccounted for would be orange (69 or 34 sheetlets), blue (say 525, so 25 or 12 sheetlets), yellow (say 234, so 14 or 7 sheetlets), mauve (5 labels or 2 sheetlets).

This newly discovered Mustique local carriage service follows in the footsteps of Trinidad's Lady McLeod, British Honduras's Cuthbert Brothers and St Lucia's Steam Conveyance Company local carriage labels.

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CATALOGUE REVIEW

STANLEY GIBBONS COMMONWEALTH STAMP CATALOGUE, WINDWARD ISLANDS & BARBADOS.

Published 2015 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, ISBN 0852599498, softback, xxvii, 454p.

This third edition covers Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, the Grenadines of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines of St. Vincent. Prices have been revised and updated and valuations for classic issues and errors and varieties have seen a large increase.

Watermark varieties, shades, plate flaws, major errors, booklets, postage dues, postal fiscals and official stamps are all included.

Details of issues up to 1970 have been extracted from the Stanley Gibbons 2016 Commonwealth and British Empire catalogue and later issues have been revised and updated especially for this catalogue.

Among the new varieties listed for the first time is the 'Extra window and broken handrail flaw' on the George VI 'Badge of the Colony' stamps, a new perforation on the Barbados 1927 Tercentenary stamp and a number of watermark varieties, notably in the Barbados 1920 Victory set.

New issue listings have been updated as follows:

Barbados (to November 2014)	Grenadines of Grenada (to November 2014)
Dominica (to May 2014)	St. Lucia (to December 2014)
Grenada (to November 2014)	St. Vincent and Grenadines (to September 2014)

TRINIDAD

TRINIDAD STAMPS USED AT CIUDAD BOLIVAR, VENEZUELA

BY DAAN BERKHOUT

The use of Trinidad stamps cancelled 'D 22' at Ciudad Bolivar are known between 1868 and 1879.

Later use of Trinidad stamps from this town have not so far been described and indeed Robson Lowe stated that he did not recall seeing such letters from Ciudad Bolivar sent via Trinidad in the early 20 th century.



At two auctions there were three letters from the firm Blohm & Co. in Ciudad Bolivar addressed to Naples. Each letter has in the upper left corner 'Pr. Royal Mail Packet'. The reverse bears the handstamp 'Forwarded by J. N. Harriman & Co. Trinidad BWI'

Two covers are cancelled 'Port of Spain Nov 11 01' and 'Port of Spain De 19 02' the third cover is endorsed via Trinidad to Southampton and is dated 27 January 1905.



Has anyone seen other such letters ?

TRINIDAD ROYAL GAZETTES**BY MIKE REGO**

Mike has gone through the Trinidad Royal Gazettes and scanned in anything related to the Post Office.

This information has been uploaded to the web site under Gallery > Trinidad.

There is an index listing in excess of 500 references which is available on the web site.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**POST OFFICES REPORT MARCH TO AUGUST 1957 (9 PAGES)****EDITED BY MICHAEL REGO**

- A more suitable parcels office at Port of Spain. District Office plans. One grade of postman. Steps to cover posts while in training. Training for the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands personnel.
- On 31 March 1956, there were 56 departmental post offices and 114 Agencies in operation. The Departmental Post Offices cater for all the classes of post office business transacted in the colony, and the Agencies usually offer stamp selling facilities, and collection and delivery of registered and ordinary mail and parcels.
- The telegraphs and telephones are not the responsibility of the Post Office.
- The Savings Bank is operated by the Post Office and its service is available at all departmental offices.
- Port of Spain is the receiving and despatching centre for all mails into and out of Trinidad. Incoming parcels are dealt with, the Customs examination being made by the Customs Department. In addition, the post office receives and despatches air mails from 178 offices overseas, and surface letters and parcels from 74 other Administrations.
- Parcel Post accommodation used for the Parcels Office is unsuitable for its purpose, and a new office is being constructed.
- The Department is in three main sections (a) Post Office Headquarters, (b) Post Office Port of Spain, (c) Post Office and Agencies other than Port of Spain.
- The Report then gives details of the organisation ...
The Headquarters staff of 66 are from the total staff of 550 in the Trinidad Post Office.

Personnel – the scheme for recruitment and promotion, hours of duty, and conditions of service, are based on the British system...

Staffing difficulties line up with the arrangement in the British Post Office when staff is called up for Military Service...

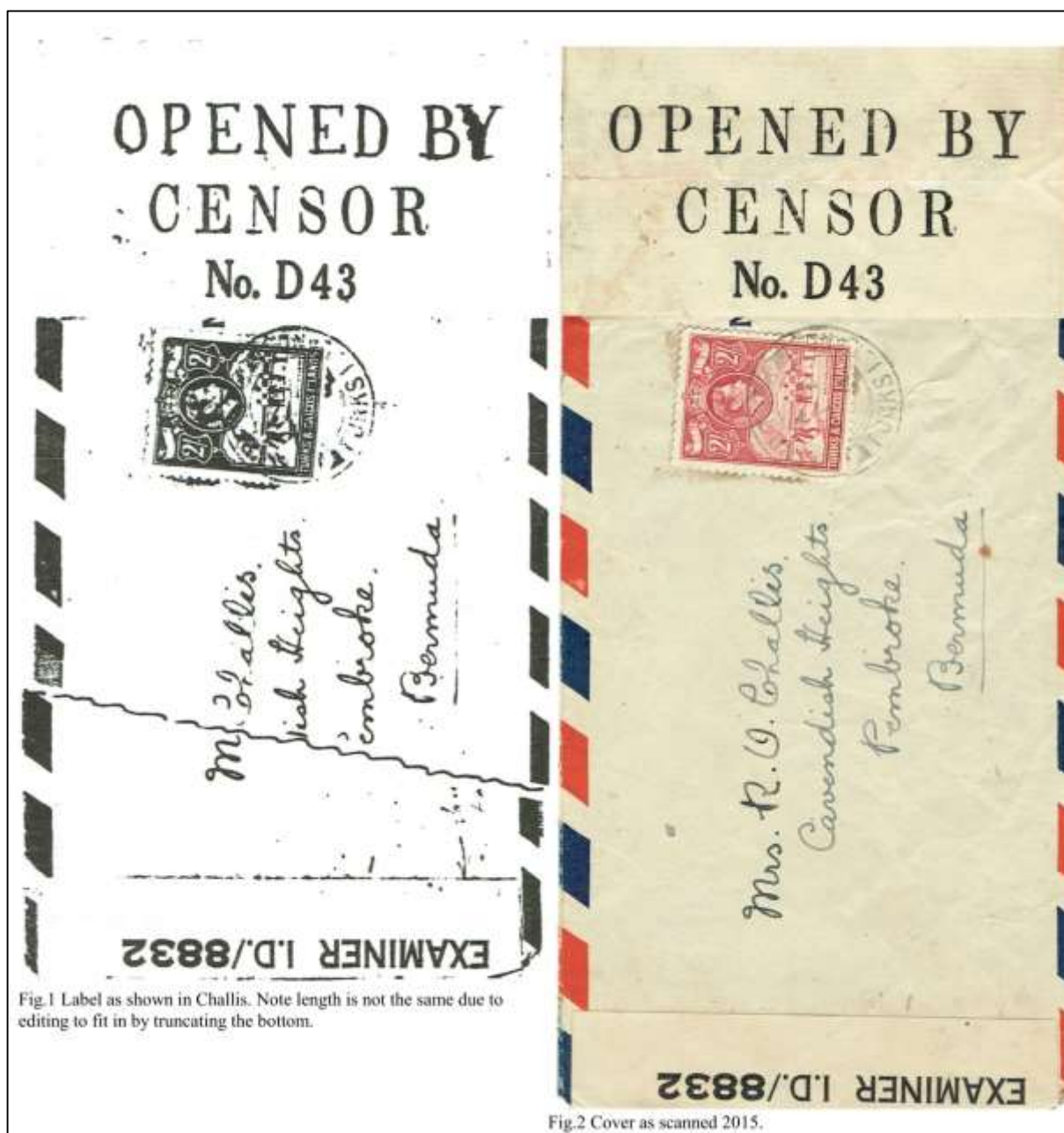
The two classes of Postmen seem anomalous, as both do the same work.

- A summary of Departmental training needs is given in the Report... Details are listed of various training courses for staff and senior officers, and in addition at least one officer in the postal service has specialised training in the British Post Office each year.
- Suitable accommodation is available in Post Office headquarters, Wrightson Road for the conduct of lectures and training courses and ...
- A detail chart is issued in the Report showing its Headquarters Organisation.
- The country offices other than that of Port of Spain, are given as Postmasters/Postmistresses classes 1–5 = 71. Supervisors = 1. Clerks = 14. Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors = 2. Assistants = 63. Postman HG = 16. Postmen = 123. Agents = 115.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

PRINTED CENSOR D43 LABEL

BY RAYMOND H. MURPHY



The discovery copy of the printed 'D43' resealing label of the Turks was first published in *Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook No. 6 Turks Islands and Caicos Islands to 1950*, by John Challis in 1983. The illustration (Fig. 1) shows a cover with a Jamaican ID/8832 label and the Turks label apparently spread out in a life-size copy. The information given for the dimensions are:

'Opened By' - 74 x 8 mm in serif capitals

'Censor' - 50 x 8 mm in the same censor capitals

'No. D43' - 27 x 6mm in heavier serif letters

Since the top half of the label is securely glued to the reverse of the cover, it appears that a separate photo was married to the front photo to show the complete label.

The illustration is about full size, and the dimensions given match for the second and third lines, however, the first line varies. The width is approximately 69 mm, and the letters are not in a straight line with the 'D BY' being 1 mm lower. In addition, the serifs on the E and N are different from those on the second line; the 'N' is significantly wider, and the 'O' is different.

I was afforded a chance to purchase the cover, and, at first, thought I had a new variety (Fig. 2). The first line was different, the letters different shapes and different serifs, and all in a line. The length, however, matched the data given by Challis. The second and third lines matched exactly the given data. The front side of the cover matched the photo, to include stamp positions, cancel positions, dirt marks, and ink splatters.

After study, it appears that the top half of the label is a hand-drawn tracing of the reverse side combined with a photograph of the front. Unfortunately, this has been propagated by other authors.

It is also stated that this was the only known copy of this design. A second copy addressed to New York City is now known.

AUCTION UPDATE

BY CHARLES FREELAND

At the end of a fairly flat year, things picked up in November with a string of intriguing sales right up to the end of January. While prices of the more 'investment' type of material have plainly been weakening quite sharply, more specialised 'collector' lots have mostly continued to sell well, though it is horses for courses with some countries currently not the flavor of the month. Still, there are signs of life in Bermuda and Grenada and enthusiasm remains for the smaller islands in the Leewards group (Virgin Islands notably excepted).

Grosvenor 11-12 November (BP 19%)

Anyone present at the sale of Stella Pearce's Antigua will have concluded that the BWI market is alive and well. How it would have fared without an extremely strong book bidder who bought nearly all the postal history and many of the stamp lots is a moot point. But that is how the sale went and it was a great result for Stella's heirs and the auction house. The first lot was the 1693 cover, the earliest known, and this opened and closed at £2k, double the upper estimate and five times the price it achieved in the Toeg sale. The other 30 lots of early postal history, which was Stella's main interest, all went above (and often two or three times) what I thought were accurate estimates even though none of the really rare marks were included. The prices of the large fleurons were surprisingly high but the crowned circles a little disappointing by comparison. Our members John Jordan and Simon Richards did not get a lot of joy, nor indeed did I.

The stamps were quieter with half a dozen unsolds. The best price was £3.5k for a undenominated QV key plate colour trial in purple, while an imperf 1913 5s was £650, both surprisingly high considering the weak prices for similar items in the Vestey sales. The Perkins Bacon 6d die proof was a fair £1.2k but the sloping 2 on 2½d red-brown CC watermark ex Mayer (from a different source) was unsold, as were mint blocks of the 2½d brown and the 1932 Tercentenary set. The few stamped covers all sold, the dubious English Harbour ex Toeg for £4k and a pretty 1886 printed matter rate to Demerara for £900. Elsewhere two rare 1920 British Honduras booklets were £1.55k for the one containing the 2c scarlet and £3.5k for the booklet with the 2c brown, while a mint corner strip of 1923 St. Lucia 5s from plate 21 was £200.

Stanley Gibbons 30 November—1 December (BP 18%)

A small assembly of early Dominica preadhesive covers provided two significant surprises for whoever estimated them. A 1798 front and small part back with a straight line handstamp, ex the Urwick collection, was £1.4k against an estimate of £40-44, while a strong but oily 1807 fleuron was £750. An 1889 cover to St. Kitts franked with a ½d and four 1ds was an equally surprising £1.1k, but the rest of the lots went for regular prices.

Cavendish 2–3 December (BP 19%)

In a strong postal history offering, our members Graham Booth, Michael Hamilton and James Podger were among those scrambling for a nibble at a decent Antigua collection of early covers, which detective work following the sale revealed had been consigned by former member Derek Seaton. Unlike the Pearse sale, the spoils were well divided with an agent in the room buying many of the lots, but each of our three members in the room ended up with at least one Antigua cover. None of the items were enormously rare but the prices were generally above reasonable estimates, a fair PD6 and a Crowned Circle to St Kitts topping the list at £600, the same price for a stamp lot containing a superb A18 on a GB 6d and an English Harbor cds on a 1d adhesive.

In a separate catalogue for the Ben Palmer Aussie States, the NSW to Nevis cover illustrated on page 131 of our Nevis handbook fetched £2.2k.

Victoria Stamp Company 5 December (BP 15%)

For once Phoebe did not offer a major one country BWI collection but as always her catalogue was sprinkled with enticing tidbits, with strength in GVI and 'back of the book' material. 80 lots of Bermuda nearly all sold, the best price being \$1.3k for a preadhesive cover with a fine P1 cancel. 90 odd lots of Br. Guiana contained fine studies of the 1882 Baldwin issue and the 'Officials', where \$2.25k was paid for a mint SG 05. A British Honduras study collection of the GVI definitives surprised at \$1.8k on a catalogue price of £500 odd.

In a strong range of Cayman Is rarities the 1907 1d on 5s double overprint used (thinned) sold for \$6k and a mint plate block of the rare War Tax for \$3k, but two lots of the same stamp used, one the unique block and the second on cover, were both unsold. In Grenada, a fine Carriacou straight line cover was \$4.25k and the unissued SG 3a in a lovely mint block \$3k. Leeward Is. offered the discovery copy of the GV 2d MSCA mint with watermark reversed, which fetched \$600. Two rare covers with straight line Montserrat were \$1.5k and \$2.25k and a similar marking from St. Kitts \$1.1k. Of two fine St. Vincent items, the oval ship letter cover ex Jaffé was unsold but the GVI 10s with inverted watermark used matched its \$2.5k estimate.

Siegel 9-10 December (BP 15%)

This worldwide offering under the Charles Shreve label had two offerings of interest to our Jamaica enthusiasts: the 1s inverted frame ex Mahfood went for \$15.5k and the numeral collection from the same source was \$6.25k against an estimate of \$10-15K.

Spink 10 December (BP 20%)

The third and last sale of the Vestey collection with BWI interest offered 216 choice lots of Bermuda, The main strength was in essay and proof material, much as in the earlier Vestey BWI collections, but this also had significant content from the modern era with over 70 GV lots and almost as many GVI. In this period, bidding was strong and few items went unsold, even though hardly any of the lots were unmounted, while some of the specialised lots fetched a multiple of estimate, confirming that the Bermuda market has firmed up following many years of indigestion. However, the estimates had been significantly reduced from those I first saw so the results were on the whole no great surprise.

The final take for the sale as a whole was just over £300k. One member spent over £55k and another around £30k. But the results were heavily influenced by the two great rarities that comprised about half the pre-sale value; the cover ex Tucker and Chartwell bearing a 1853 Postmaster and the vertical block of 6 of the unissued 1874 3d on 1d ex Ludington and Saul. Both these sold at their reserves (£80k and £40k respectively). Given the fact that nearly all lots sold, Spink would have been well satisfied with the result. However, a closer look showed that virtually all the lots went below their acquisition cost, even without taking the premiums into account.

As has become customary in the era of internet and phone bidding, the room was almost empty with just a few dealers present, but we now know that several BWISC members were active on the book, phone or internet. Apart from the two 'big' items mentioned about half a dozen BWISC members bidding on the book or the phone managed to secure at least 60% of the other lots sold. I say 'at least' because the young lady reading the internet numbers spoke very softly and it was often impossible to know which internet bidder

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had acquired many of the lots. The highlights were £650 for a corner block of the 1886 2d blue showing current number 32 (ex Saul) and the two GV colour trial proofs in vermilion and black (at £3k versus the Ludington price of £1.2k). Upper left plate blocks of the first printings of the GVI 2s to 10s fetched about five times their ridiculously low estimates. The GV die proofs were pretty strong and in the QV era the wonderful range of essays and proofs nearly all sold although many at the opening reserve price when the buyer probably would have gone far higher.

Feldman 11 December (BP 20%)

The second part of the 'Tatiana' collection did not live up to the broad range of the first part. The only really important collection was the Virgin Islands, where a decent range of sheets and proofs was on offer. None of the prices were outstanding but nearly all the lots sold which was unusual for this currently unfashionable island. Although I fear irrelevant for our members, the Missing Virgin was unsold in the room but apparently sold after the sale for £100k, while the unused Bermuda Postmaster was £60k and the used £44k...there are still some big hitters out there. In Tobago the only fine copy of the ½d double overprint on 4d grey in private hands looked a bargain at £1.1k but four Br Honduras early imperfs were sold at one third what they fetched at our member Simon Richards' auction in 2005. The fourth Barbados 1s error of colour to have been offered in recent months, ex Del Harris, was announced by Feldman as having margins added and faked perfs, so fetched a nominal £1.1k.

Murray Payne 26 January (no BP)

This was a good test of the GVI market with a wide range of lots across the Caribbean. Unmounted specimen sets of Coronation and Victory commems were popular, each authenticated by MP's expert John Cruttenden. In Bermuda MP proved they can sell postal history rarities when the K1 5 cancel on a QV 1d fetched £275, while the 1943 £1 with Pos.1 flaw was a healthy £3.1k for a marginal u/m example and a nice U/M marginal block of the 2s6d line perf including Pos. 54 £1.4k.

Spink 27–8 January (BP 20%)

The most substantive offering in this sale was an important collection of Grenada stamps, most of which had not been offered in auction since the Harmers auction of the Clutterbuck collection in 1951. The highlights were a Perkins Bacon Cancelled on the 1d value that went for £5.2k and a fine pair of SG imperf between at £1.9k. Two large blocks of 60 of SG 44 and 45 with flaws were £1.6k and £1.5k. All these were bought by a strong phone bidder who bore Joseph Hackmey's hallmarks. Elsewhere, our members' main interest would have been in a few Vestey Antigua and Bahamas unsolds reoffered at often significantly lower reserves, but many still remained unsold. However, the main Vestey leftovers were in Virgin Is. where your scribe scored a few hits as outside interest was meagre. The top price was £1.6k for the spectacular imperf plate block of the QV 2½d red-brown while the two unique Waterlow die proofs in black setenant on card were £1.1k.

Future events (see also the ads in this bulletin)

On 16-7 March Grosvenor will offer some rare Antigua and Bahamas plus a decent collection of Bermuda GVI postal history. The Gibbons March sale also promises Bermuda postal history (200 lots plus, pre stamp, QV, Boer War, Docks, Caravels, Keyplates, Censor etc), nothing of outstanding rarity but a nice collector lot.

Rumours are circulating of a 1663 cover from Barbados that should be coming up for sale in March or April. In April a Victoria Stamp Co. sale will feature the Robert de Keyser Leeward Islands collection, highlights of which featured in our RPS display in November 2014.

For their June sale Feldman are advertising the 'Tatiana' British Guiana....plainly a red letter event for our many BG fans. Let's hope it ends more happily than the Dupont sale.



peter singer



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SUBSTANTIVE ARTICLES OF BWI INTEREST IN OTHER JOURNALS 2015

Country	Article	Author	Source	Month
Antigua/ Montserrat	In postal history never take anything at face value.	David Gurney	PH	September
Antigua	The 1862 first issue of Antigua	J Winchester	GSM	October
Bahamas	Wings over the Bahamas to 1969	John Wynns	BCPJ	April
Barbados	1892 Badge of Colony issue	J Winchester	SM	April
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Bermuda	1936 ½d Definitive Plate Identification	Rod Vousden	Geosix	September
Bermuda	Basil in Bermuda Part 1	Basil Herwald	GSM	May
Bermuda	Basil in Bermuda Part 2	Basil Herwald	GSM	July
British Guiana	Waterlow Definitives 1860-75	Simon Richards	SL	June
British Guiana	Notes on specimen stamps 1905-1910	R Maisel	BCPJ	January
British Guiana	Postal stationery wrappers	John Courtis	BCPJ	April
British Honduras	1938 Pictorial issue	J Winchester	SM	February
Cayman Islands	The King Edward VII Postal Stationery	James Podger	GSM	July
Cayman Islands	Postal stationery wrappers	John Courtis	BCPJ	October
Grenada	Postal stationery forgeries	Neil Sargent	PSSJ	May
Jamaica	Postal stationery wrappers	John Courtis	BCPJ	January
Jamaica	Airmail early flights	Steve Jarvis	GSM	February
Jamaica	New revenue finds	Mike Bending	RJ	March
Jamaica	KE VII stamps	J Winchester	SM	June
Jamaica/Barbados	Trade varieties and the 1937 Coronation: Part 1	Richard Berry	Geosix	June
Montserrat	Tercentenary issue	J Winchester	SM	January
Nevis	1862 issue	J Winchester	SM	May
St. Lucia	The stamps	N Davenhill	AP	September
St. Vincent	1948 Silver Wedding 1½d Carmine – Frame Break	Russell Boylan	Geosix	September
St. Vincent	Postmarks 1937-1955	David Horry	BCPJ	January
Tobago	The philatelic story of a small island	Peter Ford	GSM	January
Virgin Islands	Mistakes found on map stamps of the BV I	G Migliavacca	Linns	February
Virgin Islands	Virgin Islands versus St Thomas	G Migliavacca	BCPJ	April
General BWI	The excitement of BWI cancellations	Simon Goldblatt	GSM	January

Journal abbreviations

AP American Philatelist

BCPJ, British Caribbean Philatelic Society Journal.

GSM, Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

LP, London Philatelist.

PH, Postal History, Postal History Society Journal

PS, Postal Stationery (USA).

PSSJ, Postal Stationery Society Journal (UK)

RJ, The Revenue Journal.

SL, Stamp Lover

SM Stamp Magazine

NB Articles in Bermuda Post are not referenced as it is assumed all members interested in Bermuda receive the journal as members of the Bermuda Collectors Society.

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